

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A cue stick comprising:
  - a grip portion;
  - a slide portion adjacent said grip portion;
  - a tip on a terminal end of said slide portion;
  - a recessed area defined by one of said grip portion and said slide portion at a location selected from a group consisting of approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion and approximately adjacent said tip;
  - a strengthening wrap received in said recessed area; and
  - wherein said strengthening wrap is a composite comprising a metallic screen, a sheet of non-metallic material adjacent said metallic screen, and a resin for bonding said sheet of non-metallic material and said metallic screen;
  - wherein said screen is comprised of copper.

Claims 2-25 (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A cue stick comprising:
  - a grip portion;
  - a slide portion adjacent said grip portion;
  - a tip on a terminal end of said slide portion; and
  - a strengthening wrap adjacent said tip and in communication with said tip for substantially preventing deflection of said tip upon impact with a billiard ball;

and

wherein said strengthening wrap is a composite comprising a copper screen, a sheet of material adjacent said copper screen, a resin for bonding said sheet of material and said copper screen.
27. (Previously Presented) The cue stick according to claim 26 further comprising:
  - a strengthening wrap approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion.
28. (Previously Presented) A cue stick comprising:
  - a grip portion having rigid sleeve on a second end;

a slide portion having a terminal end defining a recessed area and having a rigid sleeve on a first end; and

wherein when said grip portion and said slide portion are joined together, said rigid sleeve of said grip portion and said rigid sleeve of said slide portion mate against one another for forming a deflection resistant interface;

a strengthening wrap in said recessed area; and

a tip in communication with said strengthening wrap, said strengthening wrap for substantially preventing deflection of said tip upon impact with a billiard ball;

wherein said strengthening wrap is a composite comprising a copper screen, a sheet of material adjacent said screen, and a resin for bonding said sheet of material and said screen.

29. (Previously Presented) The cue stick according to claim 28 further comprising:
- a strengthening wrap adjacent a location selected from a group consisting of approximately adjacent an interface between said grip portion and said slide portion.